



Board of Education Informational Report

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 18, 2018

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent and Kregg Cuellar, Chief of Schools

Subject: Update on Vernon K-8 and MLK Jr. K-5

This memorandum provides an update on [Board Resolution 5534](#) passed on November 14, 2017 that stated:

I. Prior to December 31, 2018, PPS will designate a middle school assignment for Vernon middle grade students. PPS will provide a report to the Board on the cost to make the necessary facility improvements to open up usable space at Beaumont Middle School.

J. Prior to December 31, 2018, PPS will develop options to be presented to the PPS Board of Directors for increasing enrollment at King K-5 in order to create two robust neighborhood (non-immersion) strands.

L. In consideration of ongoing enrollment imbalances and the need to continue converting K-8s to K5s and middle schools, and in anticipation of the construction of the rebuilt Kellogg Middle School, the Board asks the Superintendent to present a plan and timeline for completion of the Educational Options analysis, including potential changes to the lottery process for focus options; a plan for expanding dual language immersion programs; and a comprehensive redrawing of school boundaries on the east side of the district.

Update on Enrollment Imbalances, Focus Options and Educational Options Analysis:

The district has put out a request for proposal (RFP) to qualified vendors able to provide complex data analysis, recommendations, and public engagement services that will support district-wide enrollment balancing and optimal building utilization. The district will review program needs, student demographics, enrollment, facility capacity and space needs identified district-wide beginning in January 2019. The district will receive a Facilities Conditions Assessment in the summer of 2019. The district will engage with the community to gather input and feedback on enrollment balancing in Fall 2019. The district expects to begin implementation of new school boundaries in the fall of 2020. This comprehensive plan will begin once the RFP is awarded and the contract is signed.

Because of this comprehensive plan to address enrollment imbalances district wide, staff asserts that a plan to designate a middle school for Vernon students would be premature. Additionally, developing options to bolster enrollment at MLK Jr. for their neighborhood program would be best included in the district-wide process for balancing enrollment.

While district staff believe that including the Vernon and MLK Jr. issues with the comprehensive enrollment balancing project is a more prudent path, we want to provide an update on how we are supporting those schools for the current school year and how we will do that for the 2019-20 school year.

Vernon K-8:

As an IB school, Vernon has a robust set of electives for a K-8 school with a growing middle school population.

Year	Grade 6-8 Enrollment
2014-15	69
2015-16	64
2016-17	104
2017-18	128
2018-19	151

Having a critical number of students, 151 6th -8th graders in 2018-19, has helped to create a more robust set of electives. With the IB Middle Years Program (MYP), the middle school students have access to Music (general music, choir, and jazz band), Art, Spanish, Mandarin, and technology. This will continue into 2019-20 as current enrollment projections show that the school's enrollment will go up by 32 students and there are currently 71 5th graders who will be moving up to 6th grade next year. This increase in enrollment will continue to support their FTE allocation and program.

MLK Jr. K-5:

This is an update on how the district is supporting MLK Jr. Elementary in the 2018-19 school year.

In terms of elective supports, MLK Jr. like all PPS K-5s have all classes take:

- PE 3 times/week
- Art or music or dance 2 times/week
- Library at least 1 time/week.

MLK Jr. made a site decision to fund a dance teacher with the arts tax funds to support that program, which feeds into Jefferson High School. Like many K-5s, they are only able to fund one type of art through the arts tax.

As an IB school, MLK Jr. has a technology teacher who provides an additional elective and has a Mandarin teacher who provides another special to the students in the Neighborhood program.

Additional Supports at MLK Jr. funded out of general fund Equity or Title funding:

- A full-time media specialist (most K-5s are funded for a half-time media specialist and a half-time library assistant)
- A full-time student management specialist
- The equivalent of two full-time instructional specialists
- A full-time community agent
- A half-time reading teacher

Below are the class sizes this year for MLK Jr. for both the neighborhood program and the Mandarin Immersion Program.

	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Neighborhood Class A	17	23	28*	21	17	17
Neighborhood Class B	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	17
Immersion Class A	20	17	15	22	Grade 4-5 Immersion Class A: 17	
Immersion Class B	19	18	13	NA	Grade 4-5 Immersion Class B: 17	

*Full-time EA hired to support the class

MLK Jr. is funded at 9.4 students per FTE. Without changing the boundary, enrollment projections show the school losing 11 students for the 2019-20 school year. The district is committed to working to make sure extra supports continue to be in place for this community.